

TDCS-3/359,377

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18 June 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
TELETYPE INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	PLACE ACQUIRED
West Germany/U.S.S.R./Poland	Germany, Bonn
SUBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE
Opinions of Berthold Beitz	

DATE OF INFORMATION	REFERENCES
Early June 1958	
APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE)	
2 (for reportorial accuracy).	
SOURCE EVALUATION (DEFINITIVE)	
West German business man (B), from Beitz.	

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general way*

1. Berthold Beitz, general manager of the Krupp firm, has recently been in the Soviet Union in connection with negotiations for trade deals between the firm and the Soviet bloc. He assures his numerous contacts in the Bonn Government and in the Foreign Ministry that trade of the type which he is conducting represents a penetration of the Soviet bloc by West Germany, rather than the reverse. He says he feels a certain contempt for those German industrialists who are eager to make business trips to America and other attractive or exotic places, but neglect such important areas as Berlin, Warsaw, and Poznań.

2. Beitz argues that West Germany should make a loan of a hundred million marks to Poland, because the Polish need is great and a gesture at this time will be long remembered and will help to heal the wounds of the past; he feels that Germany is morally obligated to do something of this sort. He maintains that the Poles are no less likely to repay the loan than, for instance, the Egyptians or the Indonesians.

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Poland, he says, is Western-oriented, and the situation in that country might develop in a most favorable way. The Soviet Government would not like such a loan to Poland, but could not prevent it. Beitz remarks that the only hope for a change in the Soviet Union is through influences spreading from the satellite states, and the likelihood of this would be enhanced by the effects of the loan.

3. Beitz believes that West Germany should establish diplomatic relations with Poland, and considers that the Government, and specifically the Foreign Ministry, has been deplorably backward and passive in this matter; he regards Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano as the worst offender.

4. In the opinion of Beitz, the West German Government must soon talk with the East German régime on the subject of reunification, even if there are no prospects of success, in order to make it clear that it is not West German stubbornness which is delaying reunification.

5. Beitz has seen both American and Soviet industry, and is absolutely confident that the West has nothing to fear from prolonged competition, in spite of spectacular Soviet successes when the U.S.S.R. concentrates its efforts in one field, such as the sputniks.

Field Distribution: None.

End of Message

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